THE

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PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 6

NUMBER 3

MARCH 1988

MEETING

The MARCH meeting will be:

on: FRI., MARCH 11, 1988

meeting room open at: 6:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM

FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L

OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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Well it seems that the ball is really rolling for the 3rd Annual International/Great NW TS Mini-Fair! We have confirmed an excellent Site and Rod is doing a great job getting an early promotional packet out. My how it has grown, from its humble beginnings of a get together at Time Design's newly completed "Headquarters". Those of you who attended the first event, should feel proud to be a part of this ever expanding celebration of Sinclairites.

It's time for early spring cleaning. Yes, the swap-meet will be at our March meeting. Dust off that dusty and neglected T/S paraphernalia. Don't think twice about whether or not you will really get around to using it again five years down the road. Bring it along to the swap meet, you just might find something more exciting to trade it in on. Don't forget to come EARLY! Set-up starts at 6:30 and the official sale starts at 7 o'clock.

Well here goes. . . This is the same old story, told in every newsletter I have seen, but. . . We need help from all of the members in providing material for the Plotter. It doesn't have to be a program or article, just a few lines sharing your computer experiences. It would be great to hear about what others are doing with their equipment within the privacy of their homes. Have you run across a wonderful program package (or maybe even a dog)? Is there one perplexing element you haven't quite conquered. Maybe you discovered something new. I know that I have come across a great many finds, written them on a slip of paper for future reference. only to bury that tid-bit in a great pile of such notes -- Never To Be Found When Needed! What a greater opportunity than to have it printed in an issue of the Plotter. only will you be sharing your discoveries, but you will have access to it the next time you need it -- in a back issue of the Plotter.

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SECRETARY'S

SECRETS

by Jack Armstrong

The February gathering was called to order by Mike Carver at 7:70. toring the meeting on his television camera was Ken Lutes. Mike reminded the group that dues are due. If 404 haven't paid yet, get your check Rod so a new card can be issued. Our resident clown Ohno; aka Bill Dunlop reminded the members that next month is slated to be our swap-meet. Bring any gear that you want to trade sell. The meeting will start getting set up at 6:00. We will have an breviated business meeting followed by the swap. The meeting is set for the 11th of March. Dick stated that the meeting room can no longer be reserved two months in advance--he now has only one month advance. reported on letters he has gotten in reply to his queries concerning the Mini-Fest from Tony of VISTA and Tim Woods said he got a letter for from TS Appeal. Rod reported Same sorrowful news; our long-time member Gwen Malm passed away recently from cancer. Don has our sympathy. will be back to see us soon. Rod also reported that the Magrathea stock has gone to Powell Books. The Fair is now set for the 1st weekend August--6th and 7th and we have served the Cosmopolitan Hotel. It is located near the Coliseum and close to transportation, freeways and all kinds of restaurants and services. Dick Wagner will make a map to be in the Plotter. There will be no catering as the hotel has food service. Any income will have to be generated from admissions and booth rentals. Merlin asked about the revenue left over from the Seattle affair and was unknown; it will be determined later. Rod gave a partial list of lined up: the speakers that he has Mike Carver, Syd Wynkoop, Vince Lyon Mike DeSosa along with Jack Dohany, Norm Lafelt, Bob Orfelt and Rod Humphries are possibilities as are Fred Nauchbauer and Wilf Richter and Tim added the possibilities of Frank Davis, Pete Fisher and perhaps someone from Cambridge. Furthur discussion revealed that we must vide our own security. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the that we can get. Please send to: Rod info that you might have 1/2 C/O CCAT/S. 1419 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or. phone in at: 503/655-7484, 10 AM- 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

WEYMIL CORP. - is definitely OUT of before. the TS business. As we said we are sorry to lose any TS dealer, but we do wish them well in whatever they undertake.

SWAP MEET-is scheduled for the March meeting. We hope that you can all make it and bring all of your old, unused hardware, software and books to sell or trade. We are planning to be at the meeting hall by 6-6:30 PM and will set up before we have a short business meeting before we adjourn to the swap meet.

3RD ANNUAL GREAT THE NW/INTERNATIONAL TS MINI-FAIR-plans are going GREAT! The Hotel reserved for the 6th and 7th of August, 1988. We have over 2600 square feet of exhibit space over 500 square feet of seminar room. We have reserved 30 rooms all of you who plan to spend nite there. The Cosmopolitan Hotel is a very nice hotel and the rates cannot be beat! At \$38/nite single or double, it is very reasonable. There is a fine restaurant on same floor as the Fair for those you who want to have a nice on Saturday nite. We are also ning to have a nice round-table discussion on Saturday evening at about 8:30 or 9:00 PM in the seminar room. We hope to have as many of speakers there as possible for wide open question and answer hours. session to last for 2-3 hope you are planning on attending!

THE SUNSTATE TS WINTERFEST-will soon be history. We hope that as many of you as can will make it to their show down there. To our knowledge, only one member of CCAT/S is going to be in attendence. That is Tim Woods of Time Designs Magazine. We want to wish Tim and Stephanie, his wife, the best of luck on the trip. Enjoy the SUN!

THE RMG BBS-is open for business! We realize you may already know this, but judging from the amount of use that the BBS has been getting. I know that I have been on this same soapbox in the past, but it does not make any sense that when something is offered for your use at ABSOLUTELY NO COST and you do not take advantage of it, it will not be long before the offer is taken back! As the BBS is obligated now to stay up until at least the second week in August to help with the Mini-Fair, so it will remain until then at least. If usage does pick up between now and then, it may be taken down. PLEASE!! Use your modem! Support your local BBS and your group!

KNIGHTED COMPUTER-has finally sent out another flyer. They tell me that they are NOT going to be carrying any new products, just sticking with their old lines at reduced prices. RMG carries their full line of s/w.

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE TAPE-put together by our group, this has been done before, has been suggested as a possible way for the group to raise some money for our club treasury. With our paid membership seemingly shrinking, we NEED to raise money in any way we can! If there are any of you who would like to volunteer some of your time to putting this idea together, PLEASE, contact Rod Gowen at 655-7484.

It looks as though I am out of room again! I always start this column worrying whether or not I have enough information to fill the page and end up wondering why I cannot fit more in!

Later....RLG

THE 3RD ANNUAL GREA

NW/INTERNATIIONAL T

MINI-FAIR REPORT by: ROD GOWEN

We hope you are all getting ready for the MINI-FAIR! WE ARE!!!!

We have the location definitely set: The Cosmopolitan Hotel in NW Portland is the place, on the 6th and 7th of August. We have over 2500 square feet of exhibit area and 500 square feet of seminar room. They have set aside a block of 30 rooms for all of you who plan to attend from out of town. If you want to ensure a room the hotel, be sure to reserve BEFORE August 1, 1988. After that date you may be out of luck. hotel has a very nice restaurant with a view of Mt. St. Helena from the dining area on the 6th floor. It just so happens that our floor space in on the same floor. room rates are \$38/nite single double and \$57/nite if you need rooms connected. There is a heated pool for your relaxation. hotel is 15 minutes from Portland International Airport. It is on the city light rail line and the city bus line.

We will be mailing out information packets to all of the user groups and vendors in the U.S. and Canada by the 15th of March. We hope that all who receive it will act upon it as soon as possible. even going to be including in packet a professional press release for the user groups place in their local papers send to the radio and tv stations in their areas for release in coming months to promote affair. The packet will also include the hotel information along with some flyers covering the local points of interest. pre-registration forms will sent in the packet as well. would like to see about 500+ avid TS fans in attendence this year! More if you want to come!

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWEN

Here I am again! #6! I must be honest with you, I really did not expect this column to last this long! If you remember the QL QORNER column, it only lasted about 5-6 issues and died for lack of interest. I half expected this one to go the same way, but I am pleasantly suprised each time I receive more input for the column, and, as I said, as long as the interest is there, from you, the readers, I will continue to write!

Two quick news items regarding the Larken system:

- 1) The 256K RamDisk system is now available for the 2068 computer. At \$130 plus shipping, w/64K, it will be a great addition to ANY 2068 system, not just those with a disk system. It does work with a cassette system, and where better to use it!?! It is available from Larken Electronics, RR#2, Navan, Ontario, Canada K4B 1H9 and from RMG Enterprises, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045. The shipping charges may be different, so check before you order.
- 2) The Larken Disk Editor/Utility Disk is now available from the two sources listed above for \$10.00 U.S.. It is a very useful addition to your Larken library.

I want to turn this month, promised, to the other Larken DOS systems. There are 3 other Larken DOS cartridges available to enable users of other systems to become compatible with each other. Larry Kenny is the FIRST one to actually address the possibility of having a "universal" DOS for all of the disk drive systems available for the 2068. I must admit, one but them has been left out, that is because it just could not done, and that is the TOS or Timex Operating System. Larry said it was it was more work than worth. The others are all supported: AERCO. RAMEX and OLIGER.

I have personally used the RAMEX and the AERCO Larken DOS cartridges and have enjoyed both of them. Admittedly, you do have to give up your original operating system in order to gain compatability, but that is only for the disks that you wish to exchange with others. For your own use, you can continue to use your old DOS.

The RAMEX/LARKEN DOS cartridge, when installed in the cartridge port, allows one to use BOTH of the DOSs at the same time! I was amazed at this fact. I found that I could LOAD a file, using RAMEX DOS from drive 1 and SAVE it to drive 2 using Larken DOS. used this method several times and found it to be useful. It did have a tendency to lock up once in awhile, but it served the purpose of getting some of my transfered. I would not, however, recommend that you use this method too often, but it will sometimes save some time. The two DOSs are similar in the way that they are called into use, so you have to watch yourself when programming with them. The Ramex DOS uses "PRINT #4:" before each command, e.g. PRINT #4:LOAD "fln". If you set up your Larken based programs as suggested in all of the Larken docs, you will run into a problem as Larken suggests that you open Channel #4 and send the commands to it. You CANNOT do that if you are using the Rames I/F, unless you first remove the RAMEX DOS eprom! To get around this, and allow you to use both systems, you simply use the primary Larken DOS command in front of the commands that you are directing to RANDOMIZE Larken based disk, e.g. USR 100:LOAD "fln.B1". I since gone to using the RAND USR call exclusively. I find it less remember confusing than trying to which system I am using it with longer and therefore can no confuse my poor 2068.

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The Larken AERCO DOS cartridge you do not have the option of using both of the systems as the Aerco system uses the NMI line another purpose and it must be cut and a small switch installed in order to use the Larken DOS cartridge with it. This is a simple 5 minute modification and allows you to switch between operating systems by simply turning off the 2068, removing or installing the DOS cartridge and putting the switch in the proper position. I have found this a very nice system combination that allows me to go between the Larken DOS for all of my Basic needs and to return to the Aerco DOS in order to make use of the RCP/M system that Aerco has to offer.

I have not personally used the OLIGER Larken DOS cartridge, but our newletter editor, Dick Wagner, has and I am going to impose upon him to submit a short review of the system to me for next months' column.

I realize that this is only an overview of the systems, but I may go into more detail if there semms to be enough interest in the subject. Let me know what you think.

Until next time, I will keep using what is certain to be, in my opinion, the #1 DOS for the 2068 in the future, the LARKEN DOS.

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Continued from page 1

The machine code SIG (the PAT/S off-shoot) has decided to meet the 4th Friday of the month at 7:00 pm. Our first meeting will be at Syd's house, March 26th. The offical "class" is over, but we will continue to meet and shane our problems, conquests and expertise. If you are having problems getting all you want out of our humble, but mighty machines, drop by and pick our collective brains.

Sinclairly -- Michael E. Carver

RENUMBER SUBROUTINE Glen Ten-Eyck

Here is a handy little trick for making subroutines that can be renumbered by simple basic renumber programa. It does away with GO TO's. At the start of the subroutine, or elsewhere in the program if it is more convenient, define a string with a name that is not used elsewhere or is a throwaway. X\$ will be used in the illustration.

9000 LET X\$="PEEK 23621+256*PEEK 23622"
9010 LET PPC=VAL X\$+20:POKE 23618, (PPC-256*INT (PPC/256)):POKE 23619, INT (PPC/256):POKE 23620, 1 9020 PRINT "IT DOES NOT WORK"
9030 PRINT FLASH 1; "IT WORKS!"

These are the rules to use--:
1. Line numbers must advance in a uniform fashion, by 10's is easiest for me.

2. VAL X\$ establishes the current line # from the system variables. The amount that is added or subtracted will the program to the new line number. In this case, add 20 advances the program to 9030 and skips 9020 altogether.

3. 23620 must be POKEd to 1 in order to force the jump to statement 1 of the target line.

Try renumbering this program all that you want. As long as you stay with a spacing of 10, it will work. If you change the line spacing, it will still work if you remember to change the 20 in line 9010 to the appropriate figure (2* line spaces).

I came up with this because the only renumber program that I have does not renumber GO TO's or GO SUB' and everybody that writes a handy subroutine writes it at line 9000 on.



LISTING ON YOUR PRINTER

PERMITTER

Dick Wagner From TIMELINEZ 2/87 by William Pederson

Can you LLIST a single program line?
Can you LLIST without interference
from standard graphics?
Can you print a listing of all lines
you want to relocate so you can
create MERGE program sets?
Can you omit the LLISTing program
itself from being LLISTed?
Does your interface do what you WANT
it to do?
Can you format the LLISTing as you
wish?

Why the &%@# not?

All these features represent deficiencies in commercial LLIST programs. Mostly it is caused by a lack of recognition that PRINT and LIST refer to the SCREEN but LPRINT & LLIST refer to a PRINTER. The two cannot be treated alike. The "advantage" of using tokens in print strings applies only to the 2040 printer. No other printer is compatable with TS2068 tokens, nor is there any reason for them to be. Sticking with pure ASCII, with no extensions, lets you talk with almost ALL available printers.

The program LLISTed here has none of the problems listed. It converts COMMON tokens to ASCII. It ignores color commands and number slugs which should not be printed anyway. It converts the few remaining unprintable characters to "?". ON ERR, SOUND & RESET are treated as characters, not tokens. UDGs are not printable, they appear as "?".

you can LLIST any number of lines, in any order, from one to the entire BASIC. You can jump around to collect them.

The program is written in relocatable format. All relative jumps and the program location depend on a single KEYWORD, (Wk). Move it anywhere you need for MERGE compatability. Just be sure to

update the value of Wk in the present line 7900. You might want to change the name of Wk to something

Though the program is entirely in BASIC, it takes advantage of the powerful editing capabilities of the TS2068. It is incidental that you can follow the program on the screen.

If you are frugal, and hate to waste paper, set Margin=0, Wide= the maximum (80?) for your printer, and set Wq=0 in Line 7910. If you are conventional, and want your listing to look as much like the screen as possible, set Margin=15, Wide=32, and Wq=0. If you are really with it, and like your listings indented for maximum readability, try Margin=10, Wide=64, and Wq=1.

Editors Note: I tried this program with a printer IF that is selectable for ASCII or SINCLAIR BASIC. With SINCLAIR BASIC, some keywords are treated as characters and the line length overshoots to print it out.

To make this program useable you must correct the listing as follows: line 7900, 5th statement, change the bracket to "ON ERR" as a token. Line 7901, change the bracket and? to the tokens "ON ERR RESET". These tokens are not ASCII characters.

7900 LET wk=7900: LET margin=4: LET Wide=32: LET win=2:{ GO TO w k+19: DIM A\$(margin) 7901 (?: INPUT PAPER 5; " LLIST " : PAPER 7' "From LINE: "; wfirst; " to ":wlast 7902 LET wa=PEEK 23635+256*PEEK 23636 7903 LET wn=206*PEEK wa+PEEK (wa +1): LET w1=PEEK (wa+2)+256*PEEK (wa+3): IF wn<wfirst THEN LET w a=wa+w1+4: 60 TO wk+3 7904 IF wn>wlast THEN GO TO wk+1 7905 CLS : PRINT TAB 4-LEN STR\$ wn:wn:" ":: FOR n=wa+4 TO wa+w1+ 2: LET w=PEEK (n): IF w=14 THEN

LET n=n+5: GO TO wk+9

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Full steam ahead on our Northwest Computer Fest. Cooperation to date has been good with volunteers offering assistance on early projects. One committee or even one member we sure need is a coordinator for the CCATS display area. Good equipment and programs essential, preferably with all TS computers and associated peripherals.

As usual, our membership roster is down at the beginning of the fiscal year. It was hoped that partial payment of dues would overcome this problem. The enclosed list of current paid members will be of assistance in the formation of committees. Addition names will be printed in The Plotter as more sign up.

So, The Editor has a red face again. I think readers were just being kind in not pointing out the glaring mistake in the December 1987 issue. In my monthly column I suggested a need for a computerized program to produce our logo of the two computer cats. I said that the programmer could put his/her initials in the lower right corner of the "state". First of all, there is no room within the border and second, Clackamas County is not the State of Oregon. My apologies for slipping up on such obvious facts. The best place for initials is the lower left corner. Bob Evans has made a start on this project and The Editor has a beginning. Surely, some other reader can produce a program for printer graphics, preferably not a screen dump.

The Editor is in the process of culling his magazines, books, spare computer hardware, old newsletters, etc, for the March swap meet. Gosh, this is hard to do, like cleaning out the garage or attic of old memories of "I'll do something with that sometime". Maybe the leftovers can be used at the Computer Fair swap table, now that I have decided what to get rid of.

We are now exchanging newsletters with the Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group (CATS) of the Washington D.C. area. It is 12 pages of good reading material. They have been publishing their newsletter almost as long as we have. Of particular interest at this time is a Federal income tax program that used 67 strings for line items and Schedule A data. There is also an interesting letter from our subscriber Joan Kealy about hard to get computer chips.

Continued from page 3
ATTENTION! All user groups! Watch
your mailbox for your packet and
official invitation to the MiniFair! ACT on it as soon as
possible and SUPPORT your computer
and its supporters.

With such notables as Jack Dohany, Ed Grey, Mike de Sosa, Syd Wyncoop, Michael Carver, Norm Lehfeldt and possibly Bob Orrfelt and Wilf Rigter, you can hardly afford to miss this show!

There will be door prizes and a lot of people who share your interest: TS Computers!

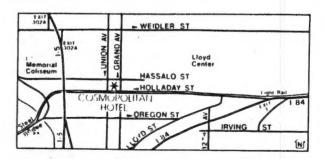
PLAN TO ATTEND! More news next time!

COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL HEADQUARTERS

From the north on I-5 exit on 302A to Broadway, left on Broadway to Weidler and follow map.

From the south on I-5 exit on 302A to Weidler, right on Weidler and follow map.

From the east on I-84 exit on #1 amd continue west on Holliday St. From I-205 take I-84 (Portland) exit and continue west to exit 1.



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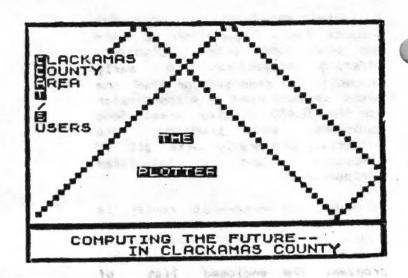
Continued from page 6

7906 IF w>15 AND w<22 THEN LET n =n+1: GO TO wk+9 7907 IF w>126 AND w<165 THEN LET 7908 PRINT CHR\$ W: 7909 NEXT n: LET wz=800-PEEK 236 88-32*PEEK 23689: PRINT PAPER 5: " "; wz+1; 7910 LET wg=0: GO SUB wk+15: FOR n=0 TO wz: LET j=INT (n/32): LE T k=n-32*j: LET L\$=SCREEN\$ (j,k) : IF L\$=":" AND wg>0 THEN LPRINT CHR\$ 13:: GO SUB wk+15: LPRINT " ";: LET wc=5 7911 LPRINT LS;: LET wc=wc+1: IF LS=""" THEN LET WQ=-WQ 7912 IF wc Wide THEN LPRINT CHR\$ 13:: GO SUB wk+15 and I has 7913 NEXT n: LPRINT 7914 LET wa=wa+w1+4: GO TO wk+3 7915 LPRINT A\$:: LET win=win+1:

7916 RETURN 7917 INPUT "Another section? Yes or No: "'L\$: IF LEN L\$ THEN IF L\$(1)="Y" OR L\$(1)="y" THEN GO T 0 wk+1 7918 STOP : GO TO WK 7919 LET A\$="": GO TO wk+1

LET wc=1: IF win>58 THEN LET win

=0: LPRINT CHR\$ 12;: GO TO wk+15



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